



News For Emergency Planners

February, 2015

Volume 1, Issue 2

Breaking News: Beginning Monday, March 16, most WA Military Department employees (including EMD) will begin working a Tuesday-Friday schedule.

What Can You Expect From These Newsletters?:

- Emergency Planning Resources
- Local Success Stories.
- What's on the Horizon That'll Affect YOU.
- Upcoming Training and Other Professional Development Opportunities.

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Have You Identified ALL of Your Stakeholders?



What sometimes happens when you accidentally omit stakeholders from your planning process...

We emergency planners are often faced with a problem before we even start the planning process...Inadvertently leaving out key stakeholders from our collaboration.

It's easy sometimes to forget segments of our "Whole of Community", especially when it has been a long time between incidents affecting that group of stakeholders, or when a group normally maintains a low profile.

How can you ensure that you don't omit community partners when it's time to start the planning process? FEMA's go-to reference for emergency planners, *Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101, Version 2* recommends identifying and reaching out to advocacy and voluntary organizations within your jurisdiction as a good start. These groups often mirror the diversity of your community, ranging from community members with access and functional needs, those whose primary language is other than English, people with service animals or household pets...the list is as unique as your jurisdiction.

Another useful resource is your jurisdiction's profile from the most recent *United States Census*. This is especially handy if your jurisdiction has a large and varied population. Here's the link: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/53000.html>

One last tip: Be sure that you document your outreach in your plans. This is one of the key areas listed in EMD's local jurisdiction CEMP review checklist.

Local Jurisdiction CEMP Review Program Update

As of February 6, 2015, **Karen Ferreira** resumed her duties as lead reviewer for local jurisdiction CEMPs. Karen was temporarily detailed to a special study involving rail and marine shipments of Bakken crude oil.

During Karen's eight month assignment, we hired **Harry Haroldson** on an interim status to handle CEMP reviews. Harry filled the gap quite admirably, and before leaving expressed his appreciation to all those who submitted plans for EMD review. Good luck, Harry...We'll miss you!



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EMERGENCY PLANNERS NEWSLETTER

[http://
www.emd.wa.gov/](http://www.emd.wa.gov/)

Integrating Amateur Radio Into Emergency Planning

As catastrophic incident planning progresses around the state, especially with regard to a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake/tsunami, it has become very apparent that we need to focus more attention on Amateur Radio.

Even though Amateur Radio has formally existed in the USA for 100 years, and most county/city EOCs have some kind of “radio room” staffed by one or more volunteer “HAMs”, it’s often an under-utilized and unappreciated resource.

Most CSZ damage projections agree that most, if not all of the communications platforms we rely upon to provide EOCs situational awareness and resource requests will be knocked out for a week or more.

This includes internet, landline and cellular telephone, and VHF/700-800Mhz radio.

There is a general consensus among the disaster communications community that for (at a minimum) the first several days following a CSZ quake/tsunami, Amateur Radio will be the primary means of passing information between state, local, and tribal EOCs. This assumption is based on the prolific numbers of Amateur Radio operators in this state, their demonstrated ability to construct and use “field expedient” antennae if their regular set-ups are damaged, and last but not least, many Amateur Radio operators are able to transmit on High Frequency (HF) bands over great distances. This provides the capability to send message traffic from Western WA to Eastern WA when other modes

aren’t available.

How is this important for us emergency planners? Well, it’s easy to overlook our Amateur Radio partners during the planning process, or simply take their assumed role and contribution for granted as we write our communications plan. With a number of “Cascadia Rising” CSZ ramp up communications exercises planned for April, June, and possibly October 2015, this might be the perfect time to firm up your relationship with Amateur Radio stakeholders.

WA EMD is presenting a workshop, “Amateur Radio Resources” (G-251) in Ephrata on February 26, and in Renton on May 20. (See the flyer on page 3 for more information and how to sign up!)

Emergency Operations Planning Template (EOPT) Status Report: “It’s still alive!!”



The Washington Emergency Management Division’s home:
Building 20, Camp Murray, WA.

Many of you might remember way back in 2008, when we at EMD began sharing information about an online emergency plan template. The Emergency Operations Planning Template (EOPT) was funded by the Army’s Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) in an effort to standardize state CSEPP plans. WA EMD was selected to test the EOPT, and worked with the developers to expand the EOPT’s use for Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP) as well.

While EMD strongly encouraged local planners to consider using

the EOPT, conducting a series of workshops and assistance visits through September, 2012, a variety of technical challenges emerged which discouraged many users.

Even though the EOPT hasn’t turned out to be the universal answer to CEMP management and development, it is still a functional and worthwhile tool for many local jurisdictions. Most of the technical glitches have been resolved, and some emergency managers (i.e. **Pacific County, Skamania County, and the Makah Tribal Nation**) are successfully creating their plans within the EOPT

environment.

If you are interested in giving the EOPT a try (or for some of you, a second chance!), we can provide you with user and jurisdiction accounts, user training, and coordinate technical assistance with the developers. Remember, this program is still **100% free of charge!!!**

For more information about the EOPT, contact Dave Hall at: (253) 512-7469, or email:

david.hall@mil.wa.gov

Training Announcement:

Here's an excellent opportunity to learn best practices for an essential function!

Workshop in Emergency Management: Amateur Radio Resources (G-251)

Ephrata, WA – February 26, 2015



WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this workshop is to educate State and local emergency management officials about amateur radio resources that provide emergency communications. The workshop provides information and guidance on Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), encourages State and local emergency management agencies to use RACES, and shows how these agencies can have an effective, integrated, and properly managed RACES organization.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Upon successfully completing this workshop, the participants will be able to apply knowledge to:

- Explain the importance of amateur radio for emergency communications.
- Describe the amateur radio groups that can provide emergency communications.
- Explain the capabilities of amateur radio resources.
- Explain how to achieve a successful RACES organization.
- Determine a strategy for coordinating with amateur radio resources in the community.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Emergency Managers
- State and Local Elected Officials
- Road and Bridge Supervisory Personnel
- Office of Emergency Management Personnel
- City Planning Directors
- Emergency Operations Center Teams

PREREQUISITES

None

Ephrata, WA

Date: February 26, 2015

Time: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Cost: Free to confirmed applicants

Registration Information

Download and complete the EMD State Training Application from our website:

<http://mil.wa.gov/uploads/pdf/emergency-management/trainingapplicationent-07-13.pdf>

Submit completed application by:

Fax: 253-512-7206 or

Email: EMD.Training@mil.wa.gov

Confirmed applicants will receive additional information no later than four weeks prior to course date.

For questions contact:

James Yates, Course Manager

253-512-7049 or james.yates@mil.wa.gov

or

Lisa Johnson, E&T Program Assistant

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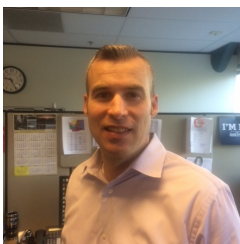
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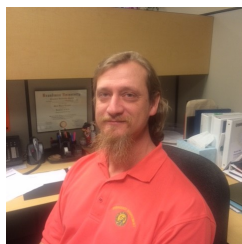
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Butch gets the bad news from the zoo.

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